DEFENSE HEALTH NETWORK PACIFIC RIM

NAVAL MEDICAL FORCES PACIFIC

PACIFIC PULSE

Newborn Arrives Unexpectedly at Naval Medical Center San Diego's Flag Circle

SAN DIEGO (Dec. 4, 2024) — What began as a hopeful trip to Naval Medical Center San Diego (NMCSD) for labor turned into an unforgettable experience for Electronics Technician (Submarine) Navigation 1st Class Zachery Finley and his wife, Gabrielle Finley when their baby boy Zachery Jr., was born in the hospital's Flag Circle parking lot, Dec. 4, 2024. Gabrielle vividly recalled the teamwork and professionalism. "It was incredible. Everyone identified themselves and stayed calm. I delivered standing up with two nurses holding my legs, my doula supporting my back, and a team ready to care for me and my baby," she said. Despite the unexpected setting, the Finley's felt supported throughout the entire experience.... (U.S. Navy Photo by Marcelo Calero/DVIDS.)

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A MESSAGE FROM REAR ADM. VALDES

Dear Team,

I'm excited to share the latest edition of Pacific Pulse, showcasing the outstanding work happening at our military treatment facilities (MTF) and Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Commands (NMRTC). This newsletter highlights how our teams support both the Defense Health Agency's mission of delivering world-class healthcare and Navy Medicine's focus on operational readiness.

Our MTFs continue to raise the bar in health care delivery while finding innovative solutions and building important partnerships. At Naval Medical Center/NMRTC San Diego, staff showed incredible skill and readiness when they successfully managed an unexpected delivery in their Flag Circle parking lot. This incident proved that our team can deliver outstanding care anywhere, anytime. Meanwhile, U.S. Naval Hospital (USNH)/NMRTC Guam continues making strides toward establishing a Level III trauma center capability, which will significantly boost our ability to support contingency operations in the Indo-Pacific theater.

Our USNH/NMRTC Guam team also showcased the agility and responsiveness of Expeditionary Medicine by rapidly deploying prepositioned medical gear for Expeditionary Resuscitative Surgical System (ERSS) 9 from Naval Medical Forces Atlantic and mobilizing a dual nurse En-route Care System (ERCS) team and their equipment. This demonstration of Expeditionary Medicine's capabilities underscores our ability to quickly provide medical care in support of our warfighters in operational environment.

(Continued on p. 3)

Rear. Adm. Guido Valdes

DHA PRIORITIES:

- Enabling combat support to the joint force in competition, crisis, or conflict
- Building a modernized, integrated, and resilient health delivery system
- Dedicated and inspired teams of professionals driving military health's next evolution

A MESSAGE FROM REAR ADM. VALDES

I'm particularly proud of the innovative solutions our people are implementing, especially our talented Corpsmen. At Naval Health Clinic/NMRTC Lemoore, Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Renee Garcia led the validation of new laboratory testing equipment that cut wait times for same-day surgery patients by 80%. These kinds of improvements make a real difference in both our operational capabilities and our patients' experience.

We continue to invest in our people's growth and development. From Naval Hospital (NH)/NMRTC Bremerton's strategic offsite to NH/NMRTC Camp Pendleton's leadership courses, we're building stronger teams. I'm especially impressed with initiatives like those at NH/NMRTC Twentynine Palms, where corpsmen trained at the installation's veterinary clinic—a great example of expanding our medical capabilities while creating valuable career development opportunities.

Our partnerships with sister services and host nation allies keep getting stronger. USNH/NMRTC Okinawa's work with Japan Self-Defense Forces on mental health care best practices and USNH/NMRTC Yokosuka's participation in Big Kanagawa Rescue show just how valuable these relationships are in strengthening our regional medical capabilities.

As we move forward in 2025, I encourage you to continue sharing your successes and innovative solutions through your SITREPs, which not only keep me informed about what's happening at your facilities but also make this newsletter possible. Through Pacific Pulse, we can share your best practices, innovations, and initiatives with your colleagues across the Network, allowing everyone to learn from and be inspired by each other's achievements. Your dedication to excellence, whether supporting the warfighter or caring for our beneficiaries, makes a difference every day.

Thank you for your service and commitment to our mission.

Respectfully,
RDML Guido Valdes, MC, USN
Commander, Naval Medical Forces Pacific
Director, Defense Health Network Pacific Rim

(The Government of Japan, Japanese Self Defense Force Ground and Maritime branches, United States Forces Japan medical components from the U.S. Army, Navy and Air Force tested interoperability while cementing partnerships at Big Rescue Kanagawa, Atsugi City, Kanagawa on Nov. 23. Photo by Ai Hazama from USNH Yokosuka's Facebook page.)

Surgeon General's Lines of Efforts:

LOE 1. Deliver Expeditionary Medicine Systems (EXMEDS)

LOE 2. Increase Sailor and Marine Deployability

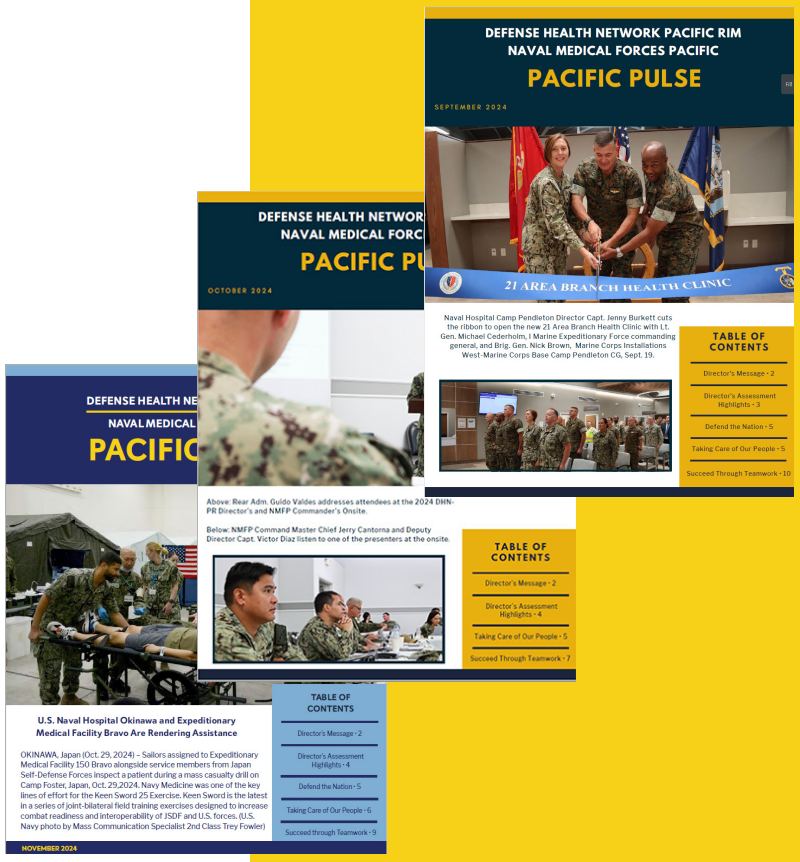
LOE 3. Provide Quality Healthcare and Patient Safety Across the Naval Force

LOE 4. Recruit and Retain Navy Medicine Shipmates

DIRECTOR'S ASSESSMENT HIGHLIGHTS

DHN Pacific Rim

Our Network PAO has developed a newsletter that repurposes content from MTF SITREPs, highlighting activities and achievements across the Network, and sharing best practices and solutions to common challenges among MTF staff and leadership. The newsletter, which was launched in September and a 4th edition in progress, serves as an internal communications tool to keep staff informed and facilitate collaboration among MTF directors and deputy directors



(U.S. Navy Photo by Marcelo Calero/DVIDS.)

(USNH Guam)

DIRECTOR'S ASSESSMENT HIGHLIGHTS

NMC/NMRTC San Diego

On Dec. 4, 2024, staff at NMCSD responded quickly and professionally to an unexpected delivery in the MTF's Flag Circle parking lot, ensuring a safe and successful outcome for the mother and her new baby. Within moments of the family's arrival, a team was on hand, providing health care excellence during this fresh-air delivery.

USNH/USNMRTC Guam

Subject matter experts from the Joint Trauma System visited USNH Guam Dec. 4-9, to conduct a readiness assessment for the MTF's trauma capability. The hospital is currently working towards verification to establish a Level III trauma center to support contingency operations in the Indo-Pacific theater. The team provided MTF staff with feedback and guidance and met with their civilian hospital and emergency medical service partners.

DEFEND THE NATION

Innovate and Modernize

NHC/NMRTC Lemoore

In November, Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Renee Garcia spearheaded the validation of the laboratory's new i-STAT glucose testing cartridge, a dedicated, glucose-only test that can be used to rapidly assess blood glucose in critical care settings. Her efforts reduced lab result wait times for same-day surgery patients by 80%, positively impacting the patient experience.

(NHC Lemoore)

Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Nicholas Ortiz revamped Medical Home Port's personnel qualification standard (PQS) to ensure corps staff skillsets better align with their patients' complex medical treatments. His efforts over the past several months helped instill confidence in corpsmen and drove the delivery of safe, quality, reliable care.

(Col. R. Erik Herrmann, commanding officer, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Miramar (left), Capt. Elizabeth Adriano, director, Naval Medical Center San Diego (center), and Lt. Cmdr. Brandon Elms, Defense Health Agency project manager (right), at the groundbreaking ceremony. U.S. Navy photo by Marcelo Calero/DVIDS.)

NHC/NMRTC Lemoore

Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Charles Idos mentored two instructor candidates for the American Heart Association Basic Life Support (BLS) Dec. 12 and 27, 2024. He then validated the two new instructor candidates' skill levels, which resulted in BLS recertification of 12 personnel at Naval Health Clinic Lemoore.

NMC/NMRTC San Diego

On Dec. 10, 2024, MTF leadership and Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Commanding Officer Col. Erik Hermann broke ground to mark the start of a renovation to Branch Health Clinic MCAS Miramar, which will include new, state-of-the-art spaces for pharmacy, laboratory, specialty care services, improving health care services for beneficiaries.

DEFEND THE NATION

Innovate and Modernize

USNH/USNMRTC Okinawa

MTF Director Capt. Kathleen Cooperman and Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Futenma Commanding Officer Col. William Pacatte led a ribbon-cutting ceremony to open the newly remodeled Futenma Dental Clinic Dec. 10, 2024.

(Leadership from U.S. Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command Okinawa and Marine Corps Air Station Futenma cut a ribbon opening the remodeled branch clinics on Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Dec. 10, 2024. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Trey Fowler/DVIDS.)

USNH/USNMRTC Guam

From Nov. 27 to 29, 2024, the Guam team supported Expeditionary Resuscitative Surgical System (ERSS) 9 from Naval Medical Forces Atlantic, packing gear sets prepositioned in Guam. They also received an En-route Care System (ERCS) gear set and forward deployed a dual nurse ERCS team. From Jan. 9-7, 2025, the MTF inventoried equipment from ERSS 9 and ERCS 5 before shipping it back to Naval Medical Readiness Logistics Command.

TAKING CARE OF OUR PEOPLE

Grow Our Talent

(NHBremerton)

NH/NMRTC Bremerton

Nov. 18-22, 2024, an Enlisted Leadership Development Facilitators Course (ELD) was held at Navy Medicine Readiness Training Unit Bangor to train nine ELD facilitators support the NMRTU and the Pacific Northwest region with the ELD requirement for advancement of enlisted sailors.

Dec. 6, 2024, the MTF held “Four Lenses” training for 24 board of directors and senior enlisted leaders to establish a common language and value system for diverse perspectives and unique talent in the workplace.

TAKING CARE OF OUR PEOPLE

Grow Our Talent

NH/NMRTC Bremerton

The MTF and Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command (NMRTC) cohosted a strategic offsite for their 24 board of directors and senior enlisted leaders Dec. 13, 2024. Capt. Brandon Wolf, director for strategic operations, led the event and the overall focus and successful outcome of the offsite was working as a team to develop their mission, vision, and strategic priorities.

(NH Camp Pendleton)

NH/NMRTC Camp Pendleton

Leadership from the MTF and Expeditionary Medical Facility (EMF) Alpha hosted a quarterly leadership and management course Nov. 20-22, 2024, designed to mentor staff at all levels as they develop their individual leadership styles.

(NH Camp Pendleton's recent nurse residency program graduates. Photo from NHCP's Facebook page.)

NH/NMRTC Camp Pendleton Nurses in Action

Capt. Sara Naczas, the hospital's chief nursing officer, graduated three nurses—Ensigns Andrew Brenan, Nathan Dysktra, and Kianna Montemayor—from their nurse residency program, Dec. 2, 2024. During their ceremony, each nurse gave a presentation on a significant learning event or process improvement opportunity they observed during their residency, to include recommend courses of action. On Dec. 10, the MTF Director, Capt. Jenny Burkett, presented Emma Crews, labor and delivery nurse, with the DAISY Award for the 4th quarter of Calendar Year 2024.

TAKING CARE OF OUR PEOPLE

Grow Our Talent

NH/NMRTC Camp Pendleton Celebrates the Season

On Dec. 7, 2024, the command held their holiday party for Sailors, civilians, and their families, celebrating the holiday season with food and presents. And on Dec. 18, 2024, NHCP and EMF150 Alpha leadership and staff took a moment to celebrate and give thanks during the holiday season, enjoying a special holiday meal served by leadership.

(NH Camp Pendleton Director/NMRTC Commanding Officer Capt. Jenny Burkett. Photo from NHCP's Facebook page.)

NH/NMRTC Camp Pendleton

MTF Director and NMRTC Commanding Officer Capt. Jenny Burkett presided over a change of charge ceremony Jan. 8, 2025, where Command Master Chief Wayne George relinquished his post to Command Master Chief Allan Antonio.

(Master Chief Petty Officer Wayne George, outgoing command master chief for Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command Camp Pendleton, receives the meritorious service medal. U.S. Navy photo by Photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Meranda Onouye/DVIDS.)

(NMRTC Twentynine Palms' HM3 Brian Johnson (left) and Lt. Angela Swint (right) unveiled their "Rates That Rule" board, a creative display honoring the contributions of enlisted rates beyond the Hospital Corpsman (HM) community.U.S. Navy photo by Christopher C. Jones/DVIDS.)

NH/NMRTC Twentynine Palms

The command hosted a Navy Enlisted Classification (NEC) Fair, Nov. 22, 2024. This event featured information booths showcasing opportunities across multiple NECs for Sailors eager to explore pathways to advance their careers and diversify Navy journey.

Branch Health Clinic China Lake sent two corpsmen, Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Cervantes and Hospitalman Ochoavarga TAD to NHTP's Patient-Centered Medical Home for cross training and resiliency, Dec. 2-6, 2024.

TAKING CARE OF OUR PEOPLE

Grow Our Talent

NH/NMRTC Twentynine Palms

On Dec. 9, 2024, Hospitalman Jessie Robbinsdyskstra was awarded an “on the spot” Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for his heroic actions when he pulled a woman from a burning vehicle that was involved in a motor vehicle accident Nov. 5, 2024.

NH/NMRTC Twentynine Palms Holiday Fun

On Dec. 13, 2024, the command held its annual holiday party, spearheaded by the MWR committee, for Sailors, staff, and families. The same day, the galley team’s Culinary Specialists served up a holiday meal, featuring a feast of turkey, roast beef, ham, and all the trimmings. And on Dec. 20, the Religious Ministry team, Lt. Cmdr. Nick Suddath and Religious Programs Specialist 3rd Class Diego Escalante, and command ombudsman Jennifer Belding hosted an Angel Tree to provide holiday presented for the children of junior enlisted Sailors.

(NH Twentynine Palms team with the Angel Tree. Photo from NHTP's Facebook page.)

(NH Twentynine Palms hospital corpsmen cross-training at MCAGCC's vet clinic. U.S. Navy photo by Christopher Jones/DVIDS.)

NH/NMRTC Twentynine Palms

Three corpsmen—Hospitalman (HN) Jessica Sanderson, HN John Udanoh, and HN Hailey Alaguena—cross-trained at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center’s veterinary clinic Jan. 7, 2025. Cross-training corpsmen at vet clinics will broaden their medical skills, enabling them to care for military working animals. It will also improve mission readiness and diversify career opportunities post-service. The three corpsmen assisted with a canine spaying/neutering surgery and emergency paw stitching for a working dog TAD to the installation from Virginia.

TAKING CARE OF OUR PEOPLE

Grow Our Talent

NHC/NMRTC Lemoore

Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Anthony Ermeri, a radiology technician, spent Nov. 11-22, 2025, TAD to Naval Medical Center San Diego for on-the-job training. This collaboration between MTFs provided Ermeri with the opportunity to learn new skills that will be invaluable for NHCL's upcoming radiation health program audit.

(U.S. Navy Photo by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Michael O'Day/DVIDS.)

On Dec. 24, 2024, Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Jennifer Hunt was the command duty officer when there was a power outage on the main side of Naval Air Station Lemoore. She rapidly responded to the outage and swiftly helped to support the base water treatment plant during a malfunction due to the outage.

(Holiday festivities on Okinawa. Photos from USNH OKinawa's Facebook page.)

USNH/USNMRTC Okinawa

MTF Director and Commanding Officer of Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command (NMRTC) Okinawa Capt. Kathleen Cooperman recognized several Sailors for providing quality, safe care to beneficiaries and keeping warfighters mission ready, Nov. 22, 2024.

USNH/USNMRTC Okinawa Celebrates the Holiday

The hospital hosted their annual holiday party Dec. 7, 2024, and made the occasion especially merry when they announced their Sailors of the Year—Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class (HM3) Jacob Moro (Bluejacket of the Year), HM3 Erica Heartsfield (Junior SOY), Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Juliana Wing (SOY), and Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Aaron Cross (Senior SOY). On Dec. 13, 2024, the hospital's Junior Enlisted Association hosted a cookie drop for staff and hosted a cookie competition whose judges included MTF leadership. And Dec. 19, MTF leadership served a holiday meal to all galley patrons.

TAKING CARE OF OUR PEOPLE

Grow Our Talent

USNH/USNMRTC Okinawa

The MTF hosted Administrative Concepts Essentials, a pilot training from DHA's assistant director for resources and personnel integration, Dec. 16-17, 2024, in Tokyo. The 142 students from Army, Navy, and Air Force medical commands learned about business operations and optimization strategies that can be implemented at the deckplate.

(USNH Okinawa staff training in Tokyo. Photo courtsy of USNH Okinawa.)

USNH/USNMRTC Yokosuka

Capt. Andreas Stiller was presented with the DAISY Award Nov. 14, 2024.

On Nov. 22, the MTF graduated 14 Sailors from the Emergency Medical Technician course.

Leadership kicked off the Thanksgiving meal in the hospital galley by carving the first turkey, Nov. 27, 2024.

(Capt. Andreas Stiller. Photo from USNH Yokosuka's Facebook page.)

(Capt. R.C. Facundo, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Japan, Commander, Navy Region Japan, Acting presented USNMRTC Yokosuka's Religious Program Specialist Second Class (Surface Warfare) Marcie B. Hons with a spot Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for her work teaching safeTALK. Photo from USNH Yokosuka's Facebook page.)

USNH/USNMRTC Yokosuka Gets Festive

On Dec. 6, 2025, the hospital hosted their 3rd Annual Cookie Drop in the auditorium and celebrated the season with a "North Pole Ball" themed command holiday party Dec. 7.

USNH/USNMRTC Yokosuka

Religious Program Specialist 2nd Class Marcie Hons was presented with an "on the spot" Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal Dec. 11, 2024, by Capt. R.C. Facundo, acting commander, U.S. Naval Forces Japan/Navy Region Japan for teaching safeTALK at Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka's orientation.

TAKING CARE OF OUR PEOPLE

Build Resilience and Readiness

NH/NMRTC Bremerton

The command coordinated a Turkey Trot/Tobacco Smoke Out 5K event, sponsored by the Junior Officers Association, with six participants, to promote health and wellness.

The MTF hosted a regional Hearing Conservation Audiology Course for eight personnel Nov. 18-22, 2024, increasing the number of personnel qualified to perform audiograms.

NHB held a NIOSH-approved spirometry training Jan.14-16, 2025 for 11 attendees, including five from USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76). Participation in this course will increase qualified occupational health technicians and hospital corpsmen who can complete pulmonary screenings for shipyard workers.

(The Great American Smokeout at NH Bremerton. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jennifer Benedict/DVIDS.)

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day at NH Camp Pendleton. U.S. Navy photo by Curtis Hill/DVIDS.)

NH/NMRTC Camp Pendleton

The MTF Director, Capt. Jenny Burkett, participated in a video created by Marine Corps Installation West's COMMSTRAT team Nov. 18, 2024, in honor of the Navy Chaplain Corps' 249th birthday, celebrating their contributions to the Navy and Marine Corps team.

MTF and EMF-150 Alpha leadership and staff paused on Dec. 6, 2024, for a Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day ceremony, which included a guest speaker and wreath laying presentation.

Sailors from the MTF and EMF150 Alpha participated in Exercise Steel Night Dec. 12-13, 2024, coordinating with Marines and Sailors from I Marine Expeditionary Force to achieve vital training objectives and maintain operational readiness.

TAKING CARE OF OUR PEOPLE

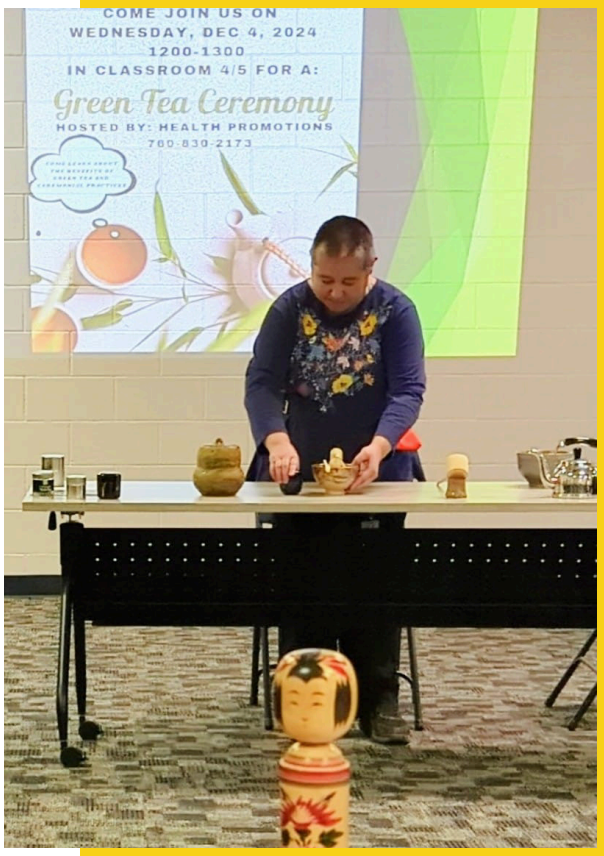
Build Resilience and Readiness

NH/NMRTC Twentynine Palms

The command's culinary services team and several leaders, including Commanding Officer Capt. Dan Clark and Command Master Chief Richard Moreno, prepared and served a special Thanksgiving meal, Nov. 26, 2024, for Sailors and staff.

On Dec. 3, 2024, the hospital celebrated National American Heritage Month with guest speaker Dr. Sarita McGowan-DaSilva. The event honored the history, culture, contributions, and military service of Native Americans.

The Health Promotions Department sponsored a Japanese green tea ceremony Dec. 4, 2024. Guest speaker Jeanette Shin shared information about the benefits and cultural significant of drinking green tea.



(Green tea ceremony at NH Twentynine Palms. Photo from NH Twentynine Palms' Facebook page.)

(An interactive demonstration using a video racing game and special goggles that simulate various blood alcohol levels. DoD photo by Elaine Heirigs/DVIDS.)

NHC/NMRTC Lemoore

The Health Promotion and Wellness Department held an impaired driving and Mario Kart simulation for staff Dec. 10, 2025. Participants wore impairment goggles to simulate various blood alcohol levels while playing Mario Kart and racing each other. The event was part of their Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions (CSADD) program to educate staff about the costs of driving while intoxicated and making positive decisions.

NHC/NMRTC Oak Harbor

The MTF's Quality Department finalized a battle rhythm for Department in the Spotlight, ensuring reinforcement of Joint Commission Standards in anticipation of the upcoming The Joint Commission survey in June 2025.

TAKING CARE OF OUR PEOPLE

Build Resilience and Readiness

NMC/NMRTC San Diego

Personnel assigned to the MTF participated in MERCEX 25-1 Dec. 3-11, 2024. This pier-side exercise included more than 500 embarked Sailors who conducted multiple trainings and drills from abandon ship to flight deck firefighting scenarios. This was done while the MTF ensured limited disruptions to patient care.

USNH/USNMRTC Guam

On Dec. 6, 2024, the hospital held their command holiday party, which included a Santa flyover from Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25.

(Santa flyover at USNH Guam. Photo from USNH Guam's Facebook page.)

(Native American Heritge Month celebration at USNH Okinawa. Photo from USNH Okinawa's Facebook page.)

USNH/USNMRTC Okinawa

The MTF celebrated National American Indian Heritage Month Nov. 22, 2024 to recognize the rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and important contributions of Native American and Alaskan Native peoples.

Ensure Accountable Leadership

NH/NMRTC Twentynine Palms

Lt. Cmdr. Brooke Street, department head for family medicine at Branch Health Clinic China Lake, was recognized Nov. 24, 2024, in the JOES “Best of the Best” report 100% patient satisfaction in primary care for the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2024.

TAKING CARE OF OUR PEOPLE

Ensure Accountable Leadership

NHC/NMRTC Lemoore

The clinic's quality management (QM) team conducted a successful site visit to Naval Branch Health Clinic Fallon from Dec. 9 to 12, 2024, in preparation for their upcoming Joint Commission site assist visit Feb. 13, 2025. The QM team actively engaged with all staff and provided resources to help them prepare.

All of the MTF's laboratories—their main facility, the Hornet Health Clinic and Naval Branch Health Clinic (NBHC) Fallon—passed their College of American Pathologists (CAP) accreditation inspections, with NHCL achieving a 99.2% compliance rate (Dec. 16-17, 2024) and NBHC Fallon achieving a 98.4% compliance rate (Dec. 19, 2024), both exceeding CAP benchmarks by 19% and 18% respectively.

(U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Jacob L. Greenberg/DVIDS.)

(DHA Assistant Director, Resources and Personnel, Mr. Robert Goodman visits USNH Okinawa. Photo from USNH Okinawa's Facebook page.)

USNH/USNMRTC Okinawa

DHA's Assistant Director, Resources and Personnel Integration, Mr. Robert Goodman, and Deputy Assistant Director, Health Care Administration, Rear Adm. Tracy Farrill visited the MTF, meeting with leadership, touring the hospital, and meeting staff.

USNH/USNMRTC Yokosuka Site Visits

Nov. 25, MTF Director Capt. Torrin Velazquez and Command Master Chief Matthew Haylow visited Branch Health Clinic (BHC) Atsugi and toured the clinic, meeting with staff from dental, laboratory, aviation medicine, primary care, immunizations, pharmacy, individual medical readiness, and admin. On Dec. 3-5, they visited BHC Sasebo, touring clinic spaces and also meeting with installation leadership onboard Commander, Fleet Activities Sasebo.

Succeed Through Teamwork

Join Forces with Our Allies and Partners

NH/NMRTC Bremerton

From Dec. 1 to 20, 2024, five sailors (two dentists, two dental technicians, and one behavioral health technician) supported Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command (NMRTC) Great Lakes in clearing the medical hold population, special duty examinations, and waivers from future fleet division and facilitated medical clearance of students currently in training.

(A recruit division commander oversees recruits performing physical exercises during an intensive exercise punishment in a berthing compartment at the Navy's only Boot Camp. U.S. Navy photo by Austin Rooney/DVIDS.)

USNH/USNMRTC Guam

On Dec. 11, 2024, MTF leadership met with the new Japanese Consul General of Guam, Ueda Susumu.

(Ginowan Industrial Festival. Photo from USNH Okinawa's Facebook page.)

USNH/USNMRTC Guam

In January, the MTF is onboarding their nursing and physiology students from the University of Guam. USNH Guam's support will enable students to graduate on time and increase the available medical workforce on the island while solidifying their commitment to the well-being of the local community.

USNH/USNMRTC Okinawa

MTF Director Capt. Kathleen Cooperman attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony marking the opening of the 35th Ginowan Industrial Festival Nov. 23, 2024. The two-day event celebrates local products.

Succeed Through Teamwork

Join Forces with Our Allies and Partners

USNH/USNMRTC Okinawa

The MTF hosted a tree-lighting ceremony Dec. 5, 2024, that was attended by the Vice Mayor of Ginowan City and local children. Staff provided food, music, games, and toys to all children in attendance in a cultural exchange between the MTF and the local community.

(Tree lighting ceremony. Photo from USNH Okinawa's Facebook page.)

On Dec. 18 2024, MTF Mental Health Department staff met with Japanese Self-Defense Forces Col. Masnori Nagamine to exchange information and best practices on mental health care, fostering a cross-cultural exchange between U.S. and Japanese medical personnel.

(Staff from USNH Okinawa tour the new University of the Ryukyus hospital with the MTF in the background. U.S. Navy Photo by Isaac Savitz/DVIDS.)

USNH/USNMRTC Okinawa

Staff from the hospital spready holiday cheer by participating in a toy drive for children in Nambu Children's Hospital and the Rehabilitation Hospital for Children in with Special Needs, Dec. 17, 2024.

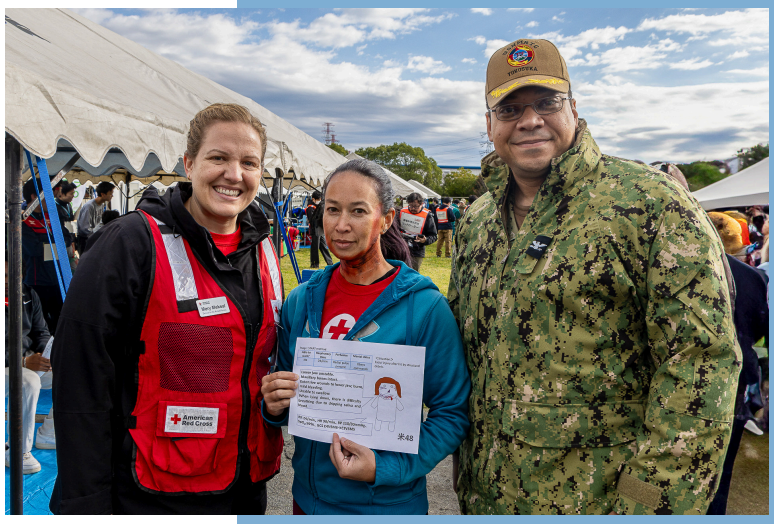
MTF leadership toured the newly opened University of Ryukyu Hospital Jan. 9, 2024. The new hospital, which shares a fence line with USNHO, opened for care Jan. 6. The state-of-the-art facility has 14 floors, 21 clinical departments, 620 inpatient beds, 14 operating rooms with two da Vinci suites, and a "bio-clean operation room" where organ transplants can take place. Negotiations are underway with Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Futenma, Kadena Air Base, and the MTF for air space access for their helipad.

Succeed Through Teamwork

Join Forces with Our Allies and Partners

USNH/USNMRTC Yokosuka

The MTF participated in Big Kanagawa Rescue Nov. 23, 2024, partnering with the Government of Japan, the Japanese Self-Defense Force (JSDF) and their maritime branches, U.S. Forces Japan, and medical components from the U.S. Army, Navy, and Air Force. The exercise was held at the Disaster Management Center in Atsugi City, Kanagawa, and tested interoperability while cementing partnerships.



(Capt. Torrin Vazquez, USNH and NMRTC Yokosuka director and commanding officer with event participants during the Big Rescue Kanagawa, Atsugi City, Kanagawa on Nov. 23. Photo by Ai Hazama from USNH Yokosuka's Facebook page.)

The MTF's Pastoral Services sponsored an Angel Tree Toy Drive Nov. 25, 2024, in partnership with Misono Orphanage. The children wrote down Christmas gift ideas and turned them into hand-made tree decorations.

(USNH Yokosuka leadership visted the Japanese Self-Defense Force Hospital in Tokyo, Dec. 13. Photos from USNH Yokosuka's Facebook page.)

USNH/USNMRTC Yokosuka

On Dec. 13, USNH Yokosuka leadership visited the Japanese Self-Defense Force Hospital Central in Tokyo, Japan, where they met with senior officials, including Commanding General Suzuki, Deputy Commanding General Lt. Gen. Hirayama, and Vice Admiral Ogawa, received briefs about the facility and capabilities, and toured the facility.

Staff from Branch Health Clinic Iwakuni partnered with staff from Hirshima Prefectural Hospital's neonatal intensive care unit to conduct neonatal medevac training, Dec. 19.

Succeed Through Teamwork

Build Unity Within the Department

NH/NMRTC Twentynine Palms

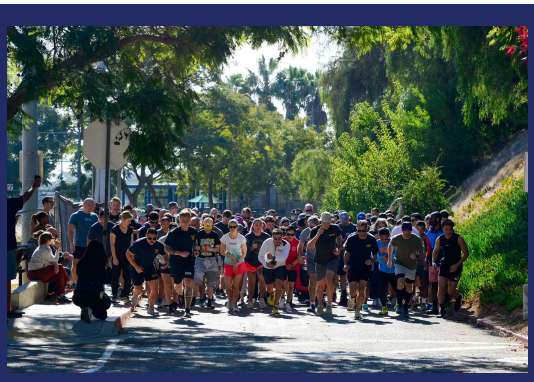
From Dec. 9 to 12, 2024, the MTF's Patient-Centered Medical Home department head, Cmdr. Groves, was TAD to Weed Army Community Hospital, Fort Irwin, Calif., where she collaborated and taught an intermediate fetal heart monitoring course to 10 nurses

(Weed Army Community Hospital. U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Ben Houtkooper/DVIDS.)

NHC/NMRTC Lemoore

Dental officer Lt. Won Lee and Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Hannah Grismore from Naval Branch Health Clinic Fallon supported Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command Great Lakes during a recruit training surge, completing 5,020 dental procedures and achieving 80% operational dental readiness. The collaboration also enabled Lt. Lee to gain supplemental privileges and add surgical extraction services at NBHCF, saving $25,000 monthly in referral spending.

In December 2024, the MTF's health care business team, led by TRICARE liaison officer Jennifer Brogdon, prepared for the TRICARE (T5) contract transition by participating in multiple training programs.



(Participants get ready to take off at NMC San Diego during the annual Wounded Warrior 5K Run/Walk. Photo from NMC San Diego's Facebook page.)

NMC/NMRTC San Diego

The MTF partnered with Commander, Navy Region Southwest, Navy Wounded Warrior, and MWR to host the annual Wounded Warrior 5K Run/Walk, Nov. 22, 2024. The event welcomed more than 160 participants, celebrating the strength and resilience of our wounded warriors and NMCSD's commitment to their recovery.

Succeed Through Teamwork

Build Unity Within the Department

USNH/USNMRTC Guam

On Dec. 11, MTF staff met with leaders from the USMC Wounded Warrior Regiment to discuss strategic posture and integration for casualty management in the Pacific theater.

USNH/USNMRTC Okinawa

Brig. Gen. Kevin Collins, commanding general 3rd Marine Logistics Group, met with MTF Director Capt. Kathleen Cooperman and members of 3rd Medical Battalion who work at the hospital, Dec. 7, 2024. Collins toured the MTF and talked with staff about hospital operations during a wartime environment.

Working with III Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF), the Brian D. Allgood Community Hospital, the 65th Medical Brigade, and the 51st Logistics Squadron, the hospital secured two ambulances Dec. 19. The collaboration not only improved the MTF's emergency response capabilities, but also provided an opportunity to execute joint mission communications and problem-solving logistical challenges.

(USNH Okinawa secures new ambulances. Photo courtesy of USNH Okinawa.)

(Capt. JD Crinklaw. U.S. Navy photo by Jeb Fach/DVIDS.)

USNH/USNMRTC Yokosuka

MTF staff met with Commander, Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility Capt. JD Crinklaw and several of his staff Dec. 11, 2024, to discuss support for shipyard personnel onboard Yokosuka, including occupational health and primary care services, Space Available primary care appointments, and the pilot health insurance enhancement for DoD civilian employees.

Succeed Through Teamwork

Strengthen Partnerships Across America

NHC/NMRTC Lemoore

The clinic's First Class Petty Officer and Junior Enlisted Associations sponsored a volunteer event to support the Hanford Episcopal Church Soup Kitchen on Dec. 14, 2024. Sailors served hot meals to homeless community members, providing critical support during the holiday season and colder winter months.

NMC/NMRTC San Diego

The NMCSD Chiefs Mess joined forces with the Armed Forces YMCA San Diego Dec. 11, 2024, to distribute bicycles and other gifts to more than 1,200 children of junior enlisted personnel at the Murphy Canyon Chapel for the holidays.

(Bikes given away by the Armed Services YMCA San Diego during the 2024 holiday season. Photo from the Armed Services YMCA San Diego Facebook page.)

(Defense Health Network Pacific Rim and Naval Medical Forces Pacific leadership and staff.)